

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5797

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

S E C R E T KINSHASA 10976

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA

REF: STATE 301357

1. DURING TALK AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY DEC 23 PRESIDENT MOBUTU, IN COMPANY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRGEN BAGBENI AND PRESIDENCY COUNSELLOR BOKANA, AGAIN EVIDENCED HIS INTENSE INTEREST IN WASHINGTON DEVELOPMENTS RE ANGOLA. IN RESPONSE TO HIS OPENING QUESTION AS TO WHAT NEWS I HAD, I REVIEWED SOME OF THE THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE LAST WEEK'S SENATE ACTION: THE FIRM LINE PRESIDENT FORD HAD AGAIN TAKEN IN HIS REMARKS TO THE PRESS DEC 20; GULF OIL'S DECISION TO REFUSE PAYMENT TO THE LUANDA REGIME; THE DECISIONS BY BARBADOS AND TRINIDAD TO DENY TRANSIT FACILITIES TO CUBAN FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA. I ASSURED MOBUTU THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REMAINS DETERMINED TO PURSUE A RESPONSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION OF ANGOLA AND THAT I ANTICIPATED FURTHER VIGOROUS EFFORTS WITH THE CONGRESS WHEN IT RECONVENES NEXT MONTH. MOBUTU,WHO WAS OBVOUSLY WELL BRIEFED ON ALL OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT WE REMAINED FIRM IN OUR RESOLVE.

2. MOBUTU THEN TURNED TO THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT AND SPOKE WITH THE SAME CONFIDENCE HE HAD DISPLAYED IN OUR PREVIOUS TALK ON HOLDING THE LINE BEFORE THE OAU MEETING. HE SAID

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THAT, ACCORDING TO HIS CALCULATIONS, A TOTAL OF TWENTY

AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AT THE VERY MOST MIGHT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA BY THE TIME THE OAU MEETS --FAR LESS THAN A MAJORITY. HE REVIEWED SOME OF ZAIRE'S DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES IN THIS REGARD, NOTING AS AN EXAMPLE THAT WHILE BURUNDI WOULD NORMALLY HAVE SIDED WITH THE MPLA IT HAD NOT DONE SO BECAUSE OF MOBUTU'S PERSONAL INFLUENCE WITH MICOMBERO.

3. IT WAS A FEW HOURS AFTER THIS TALK, AND JUST BEFORE A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH BISENGIMANA, THAT I RECEIVED REFTEL INDICATING BURUNDI MIGHT IN FACT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA. I PASSED THIS ON TO BISENGIMANA, WHO IMMEDIATELY CALLED MOBUTU AND THEN ASSURED ME THAT MICOMBERO WOULD BE APPROACHED AGAIN.
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